

## The Sun.

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## Ghosts at Chicago.

A conference of anti-imperialists opens in Chicago to-day. It begins to strike the public that there are almost as many anti-imperialist conferences as imperialists. The opportunity for posture-making and palaver is dear to the Tagalophiles. The poorest show is run by the Central Anti-Imperialist League, a concern largely composed of the Hon. JULIUS STRECHUS MORRIS, formerly Secretary of Agriculture, the Hon. WASHINGTON WAHRES, formerly Collector of the Port of Boston, the Hon. HORACE BOIES, formerly Governor of Iowa, the Hon. JOHN B. HENDERSON, formerly a Senator in Congress from Missouri, the Hon. WILLIAM J. MIZE, formerly Collector of Internal Revenue at Chicago, and the Hon. CARL SCHWITZ, formerly Senator in Congress from Missouri. These gentlemen have had their day. They have no connection with living politics. They are stranded. Doubtless they are grateful for an occasion to come before the world again, and nobody should grudge it to them. But they are only ghosts. They can only squeak and gibber their protests while the country moves on.

The remarkable characteristic of the conference is the number of Ex's and used-to-be's that it contains. For instance: the Hon. JULIUS STRECHUS MORRIS, formerly Secretary of Agriculture, the Hon. WASHINGTON WAHRES, formerly Collector of the Port of Boston, the Hon. HORACE BOIES, formerly Governor of Iowa, the Hon. JOHN B. HENDERSON, formerly a Senator in Congress from Missouri, the Hon. WILLIAM J. MIZE, formerly Collector of Internal Revenue at Chicago, and the Hon. CARL SCHWITZ, formerly Senator in Congress from Missouri. These gentlemen have had their day. They have no connection with living politics. They are stranded. Doubtless they are grateful for an occasion to come before the world again, and nobody should grudge it to them. But they are only ghosts. They can only squeak and gibber their protests while the country moves on.

## A Russian Comment on Dreyfus's Sentence.

To be wounded in the house of a friend is reputed the worst of injuries. That is the sort of wound which has been dealt to France, though the Paris newspapers have studiously hidden it from the French people, by Mr. ISATIS ZAKREFSKY, the leading Russian jurist, who is a member of the Imperial Senate and ex-Procurer-General of the Court of Appeals. It was Mr. ZAKREFSKY who, some time ago, published in the *Law Journal* of St. Petersburg a remarkable article in which he warned the French that, for the proceedings against DREYFUS and PERCHET, they would ultimately have "to reckon with the opinion of the civilized world, which judges and knows how to condemn."

The same eminent Russian Judge, within a few days after DREYFUS was convicted by the Rennes court-martial, addressed to the *London Times* a letter, printed in French, in which he pronounced the judgment of the civilized world upon that outrage. When Frenchmen read what he says, as they must eventually do, they are likely to be more impressed by it than by the opinions of Englishmen, whom they detest, or by those of Americans, Italians, Germans and Austrians, to which, for one reason or another, they profess indifference.

But, it may be said, Mr. ZAKREFSKY is a Liberal, and may not represent the general views of educated Russians. The answer is that the article in the *Law Journal* of St. Petersburg was authorized by the Censor, notwithstanding the protest of the French Embassy, and that, as we learn from the *National Review*, even the severe language of the letter in the *Times* does not differ in substance from a declaration made contemporaneously by Mr. PONY TOLSTOY, the Procurer of the Holy Synod and the spokesman of Tory and Reactionist Russia. This influential adviser of the Czar has not hesitated to aver that, "for all impartial observers, the proceedings at Rennes prove the innocence of Capt. DREYFUS."

Let us see what Mr. ZAKREFSKY says. He begins by enquiring: "What is the conclusion to be drawn from the spectacle witnessed at Rennes?" In his judgment, the true conclusion is that "modern French society has definitely fallen from the rank it occupied among civilized peoples. Where the sentiment of justice is atrophied by the intensity of political and religious passions, grafted on to a monstrous national vanity passing itself off for patriotism, there is, certainly, no room left for the moral elements indispensable to a well-ordered form of society."

But should a whole nation, it may be asked, be indicted for the misdeeds of a military coterie? "Let it not be said," rejoins Mr. ZAKREFSKY, "that the five officers at Rennes, and the chiefs who inspired them, are alone guilty of the acts of revolting iniquity which have inflamed the whole world. Truth compels us to recognize that the great majority of the French people, by which we mean the great majority of those who read, judge and vote, were the real inspirers of a verdict which expressed their sentiments. I shall be asked, What about ZOLA and the Intellectuals? What about those who fought so valiantly in the cause of truth and justice? I answer that they were an infinitesimal minority, swimming in a sea of stupidity, vanity and cruelty."

Mr. ZAKREFSKY goes on to stigmatize the motives of some distinguished Frenchmen, reputed men of probity and conscience, who appeared upon the witness stand at Rennes, and who showed themselves extremely reluctant to give evidence likely to damage the General Staff. "Take," he says, "one instance among many. See how men who call themselves statesmen, who belong to the cream of society, like the Casimier-Periers and the Freycinets, when called upon to give testimony, to tell the whole truth, instead of throwing light upon important facts, are content to fence and make evasive speeches. They think above all of themselves; their chief anxiety is not to deprive their own value in the eyes of their great audience, i. e., of the country which listens to them. What splendid characters, what true Romans," continues Mr. ZAKREFSKY, "are these French statesmen, and what a superb audience that whose disapprobation they are

seeking to avoid! Yes, indeed, the great nation that pretends to hold the torch of civilization and to illuminate the world has sunk very low."

In the light of this falling torch, many things on the ground are exposed, it seems, which had remained hidden. For example, the motives of Frenchmen in soliciting an alliance with Russia are now thus interpreted by Mr. ZAKREFSKY: "Unable, in her vanity and thirst for prestige, to recognize in her defeats of 1870-71 that all was irretrievable and even just; protesting that she could never accept the Treaty of Frankfurt as final; prating of her vindication and her hopes without venturing to strike a blow, France has gradually cut herself adrift from the helplessness of political disorder from the great western nations, to which, with their liberal traditions, the ties of centuries unite her, and she has sunk anonymously into the arms of a country which, more than ever, represents and practices principles entirely opposed to those which France boasts of holding."

If this be true, what must be Russia's course? "Let us then," answers Mr. ZAKREFSKY, "leave gentle France to the great military chiefs who are as famous for the victories they have lost as for the forgeries and other infamies they have committed; to a filthy press which floats a flood of calumny; to the superb patriots, the glorious Nationalists, who vociferate exhortation against the foreigner, and howl in *renouveau* without moving a yard. Let us tell her frankly, and in a friendly spirit, whilst taking her warmly by the hand, that her conduct can only inspire nausea."

Mr. ZAKREFSKY goes on to put his objections to participation in the French Expedition on the ground that, in view of what has passed, foreign guests at the French capital would be subjected to intolerable discrimination, moral and social. "Above all," he says, "let us not hasten to next year's expedition, as we might find ourselves in a delicate position. We should hear, as usual, resounding phrases about Progress, Liberty, Justice and of France's contributions thereto. What could we then do? It is supremely rude to laugh in one's host's face. But could we rely upon restraining our natural mirth, however much mixed with bitterness?"

It is pointed out by the *National Review* that if Frenchmen were disposed to heed the voice of any foreigner, it would be obviously that of a Russian. They cannot dispute the right of their allies to speak. The credit of a firm is necessarily damaged by the discredit of one of its partners. In Mr. ZAKREFSKY's vehement words, and in Mr. DONDOSOFFE's more sober yet not less trenchant utterance, may be recognized the outraged self-love of an ally who sees his associate plunging into moral bankruptcy before the world, and who is conscious that such a disgrace cannot fail to affect the political prestige of the coalition. Nor is it only humiliation, but grave apprehension also, which the miserable DREYFUS business has caused at St. Petersburg. MERCIER declared at the opening of the Rennes court-martial: "In this affair, there is but one culprit; it is either DREYFUS or myself." The Russians, like others, take him at his word. They believe that the highest members of the French Headquarters Staff have been engaged in a treasonable traffic with Germany, and that the original conspiracy against DREYFUS was prompted by the instinct of self-preservation.

The Russian says that this places a terrible weight in the hands of the German Emperor, which, in case of necessity, he will not fail to use against the Dual Alliance. They know that the publication of the Benedetti memoranda on the eve of the Franco-German War was worth several army corps to Germany, for it completely turned the tide of feeling in the neutral nations against France by disclosing the baseness of her policy. What, asks the *National Review*, would be the effect, both outside and inside of France, of the publication of documentary evidence, on the eve of another war, proving up to the hilt a sordid treason on the part of the French General Staff?

## Wives Most Protected by the Divorce Laws.

The terms of a uniform law of divorce, as recommended to the States by a committee which is working to bring about general uniformity of State legislation, were published in *THE SUN* yesterday. They support the position we have taken that there should be no uniformity in divorce laws in this country except on the theory that marriage is a civil contract, dissoluble for various causes. After prescribing a period of residence in a State requisite to obtain a title to divorce, this draft of a general law proceeds to define the causes for the dissolution of the marriage contract thus:

"Divorce from the bond of marriage shall be granted for the following causes arising after marriage: Adultery, extreme cruelty, habitual drunkenness, or the confirmed habit of intemperance, whether arising from the use of alcoholic drinks or drugs; conviction of felony, with sentence of imprisonment to a State prison or penitentiary, and continuous detention for at least one year. Divorce from the bond of marriage shall not be granted for any other cause arising after marriage."

That is, in order to secure the proposed uniformity, New York would have to recede from its present legislation, making adultery the only cause for divorce, and take the ground of all the rest of the States, with the exception of South Carolina, in allowing the other causes named. That is the necessary price of uniformity; all discussion of means of bringing it about without such a concession by New York would be fruitless.

Wilful desertion as a cause for divorce dates back to the Reformation, and the other causes above named have been added for the benefit of wives more particularly. When Congress empowered the Commissioner of Labor, in 1887, to collect the statistics of marriage and divorce throughout the Union it was discovered that of 328,716 divorces granted in twenty years, 216,176 were granted to wives and 112,540, or only about half that number, to husbands. The divorces obtained for the causes named were thus distributed:

To Husbands. To Wives.  
 Adultery.....38,184 29,503  
 Cruelty.....6,122 45,478  
 Drunkenness.....1,436 12,432  
 Neglect to provide.....None 7,955

It will be seen, therefore, that the principal cause of divorce was some form of ill treatment of the wife by the husband, other than adultery, and that in admitting such a ground it was the interest of the wife especially which was considered. Simultaneously with the removal of the various legal disabilities of women, their facilities for defence against harsh or neglectful husbands have been increased. It has been a part of the general "emancipation of woman." Is it possible to reverse that current?

So far as the Church goes and as concerns its law of religious obligation, however,

the attitude of the State to the institution need have no significance. It can accept or reject the civil divorce as it thinks best, to the extent that it has authority over its own adherents, but it can go no farther than impose on them purely ecclesiastical penalties for their disobedience. Under the law of the State they are divorced, but the Church may refuse in its discipline to recognize the divorces, Church and State being distinct by our fundamental law.

So also as to marriage. Under the State it is purely a civil contract, and, civilistically, the legal marriage should be left, it being left to the conscience of the parties to determine whether they shall supplement the civil formality by obtaining the blessing of the Church on the union as an obligation of religion. All those who sincerely believe in the Church will obey its law as the prime necessity, however it may conflict with their inclinations to marriage.

## The Yachts.

What all have been praying for, a wind, came yesterday, bringing the hoped-for fortune to the Americans. The Columbia won in such commanding style that all doubt and conflict of theory as to which is the better boat were swept away. The gentle and fitful breezes blowing the Shamrock to the front in the previous trials are proven deceivers, which, when they blow in earnest, leave Columbia more.

Columbia's success is a great relief in various ways.

First, it relieves the American people of their feelings about the America's Cup, in which they have discovered their interest to be the greater at every apparent increase in the Shamrock's chances of taking it away. Secondly, it relieves countless experts in marine architecture of the shock occasioned by the sight of HERRESHOFF's latest and best being held by a model two feet shorter. While Shamrock was edging away from Columbia to windward, as she did in the early trials, it looked as though the books on boat building would have to be written over. The old theories as to length still hold.

Thirdly, it has relieved Mr. ISBLIN of the sensational howls that he didn't know his business, and that his skipper, Capt. BAIR, didn't know his business, and that the Columbia combination of professionals and amateurs was a justifiable and prudent one. Lastly, it has relieved, to a large extent, Sir THOMAS LIPFON of hopes cherished upon an unsubstantial basis—something which he as a man of sound common sense couldn't get rid of too soon.

When a week ago *THE SUN* predicted to Sir THOMAS that a good wind would blow those same fond expectations out of sight, since with every trial the reason grew for thinking that Shamrock's spasmodic superiority to her rival came primarily from her greater and better spread of canvas, we confess that we sorely looked for a lead of ten minutes by the Columbia on the windward leg. This brings up the Defender for comparison with the challenger. With yesterday's wind would Columbia have beaten Defender ten minutes in a heat to windward? Doubtful. Our old conviction that the challenger, after one year's loss in the class, of our one-year-old Defender, is the class of our defender of the year previous still lives even in the presence of the Shamrock.

This describes the situation no more than fairly as it appears from the data available. To prevent a change in it we advise the Columbian outfit to equip that lovely craft with a supply of large and powerful squirts against a warm, dry west wind that would put back into their sails the bagginess that yesterday's kindly mist took out of them. We are strongly of the belief that the striking improvement in Columbia was largely or even chiefly due to the flattening of her canvas by the dampness, and her consequent equality to Shamrock in respect to that most important element of a racing yacht, the sail. A wet sail and a straining sheet and the Cup is still our own.

## Startling Registration.

Some facts of the two days' registration in New York borough are very noticeable. In 1898 the total number of votes registered in the county of New York during the first two days was 171,000. This year it is 140,000, or 25,000 less. Since the whole registration last year was 330,000, the indication, judging by the first two days of registration, is that the total will be 280,000 only. In other words, 50,000 New York electors will vote in this election. But certain of the Assembly districts there is a very different situation.

There are thirty-five Assembly districts in New York county, of which eight elected Republican and twenty-seven Democratic representatives a year ago. There being no State ticket in the field, the objective point of Democratic tactics is an increased Assembly delegation through the capture of four of the eight Republican districts—the Fifth, Eighth, Nineteenth and Thirty-first respectively. To achieve this the Tammany plan is to concentrate the floating votes as far as possible into these four districts, so that they may be won from the Republicans, and the Democratic lead in New York county on Assembly, which is now nineteen, increased to twenty-seven.

The constitution prescribes these qualifications for electors: One year's residence in the State, four months in the county, and thirty days in the election district. There are many electors of New York, as in other large cosmopolitan cities, whose place of residence is not permanently fixed, but changed from time to time as business or personal preference dictates, and the requirements of the law are fulfilled by thirty days' bona fide residence in a voting district for a qualified citizen who has resided the requisite time in the county and State. The Tammany plan of campaign has been to shift so far as possible these voters into the four doubtful or uncertain districts with a view to their capture, depending, too, on the general abatement of Republicans from the polls in New York county next month.

In that view of the case the apparent discrepancies in the registration are clearly explained. The Eighth Assembly district, one of the doubtful ones, is the only district in town in which there is an increase in the registry compared with the figures of a year ago. The Thirty-first district, another of the doubtful ones, shows only a falling off of 600 votes, while in the Twenty-first, which adjoins it and is of a very similar character, the falling off is twice as great. In the Fifth district the decrease is less than 10 per cent, as compared with a year ago, whereas in the Twenty-fifth, a similar district which adjoins it, the falling off is nearly 30.

Whatever may be the changes in the political situation locally between now and the close of the registration, which will be on Saturday next, the record to date shows

that special efforts will be required of New York Republicans to obtain a fair representation of their party in the next Legislature.

The happiest man in the world is Col. Bear. He is going through Kentucky in a special train, stopping frequently for a few remarks and emitting half-hour speeches at regular intervals. What's GOEBEL to him or he to GOEBEL? The speech is the thing.

Those who hold with the Hon. WILLIAM LLOYD GARDNER that football is the source of war, imperialism and all woes will grieve to hear that the Hon. FRANK CAMP ROBERTSON, pitcher of the Yale University nine, and the Hon. FRANCIS GORDEN BROWN, the football guard, are high on the honor lists for general scholarship. We suggest to Mr. GARDNER that these gentlemen be appointed "philosophical appointments" to the seaport or complexity of the Yale faculty. The brutalizing and degrading tendency of football and baseball is well known to Mr. GARDNER, and he should forbid the Yale dons to trifle with the facts.

If the Hon. WILLIAM EATON CHANDLER is not especially busy, judged by his own high standard of activity, he ought to chasten our esteemed contemporary, the *Mobile Register*, which calls him "the aged New Hampshire politician." As a brilliant and astute Congressman, CHANDLER should hurl the imputation and stamp upon the imputer.

As was inevitable, the Hon. JAMES K. JONES of Arkansas and of the Democratic National Committee is sure that the anti-exclusion feeling is growing, but it is doubtful if, in this case, but it is often a convenience to know that by "conspiring" the Hon. JIM JONES's opinions the truth can always be ascertained.

Dr. ELISHA BENJAMIN ANDREWS of Chicago continues to unfold a majestic mind. He has been kicking against the English orthography, then against the innocence of DREYFUS; then against KIPPLING's "Recessional." It must puzzle Dr. ANDREWS to keep up with himself.

## Poetry is cheap to-day—London Trials.

Yes, and paradoxical as it may seem, it is because of the limited supply.

## RE-ENTERS THE ARMY AT 53.

James R. Wasson, Dismissed as a Major, is Allowed to Enlist as a Private.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—An exception to the rule forbidding the enlistment in the military service of men more than 35 years of age, has been made by the Secretary of War in the case of James Robert Wasson, once a Major in the Army. Still another exception was made in the case of the late Major Wasson, who was dismissed from the service after a trial by court-martial and could not re-enter without express authority. He has been enlisted as a private, at the age of 53, in the Third Cavalry, stationed at Fort Myer, Va.

Wasson's career has been romantic. As a cadet at West Point his best friend was Frederick Dent Grant, a son of President Grant, and now a Brigadier-General of Volunteers serving in the Philippines, and it was through this friendship that he managed to return to the Army after having once left it. His enlistment was made on the condition that he would serve in military service. He was born of German parents in Ohio, enlisted in the Fifty-fourth Iowa Volunteers in 1864 and participated in the Red River campaign. Then he went to West Point as a cadet. Wasson was graduated at the head of his class, and he became a member of the Imperial order of merit of Meiji in Japan. He was promoted to Second Lieutenant. Through Frederick Grant's influence he secured a year's leave of absence and went to China and Japan. The life there suited Wasson, and when his leave was up he resigned his Army commission to become professor of mathematics in the College of Hokkaido. 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